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**The situation in the Middle East**

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## Letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to transmit herewith to you the text of a statement by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar's condemnation and denunciation of Israel's serious escalation of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The State of Qatar, which currently holds the chairmanship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, condemns and denounces Israel's serious escalation of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, its savage acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and its reoccupation of some of the territories of the Palestinian National Authority in blatant defiance of the commitments that it had signed as well as the principles of international law and resolutions based on international legitimacy.

This statement was made to the Qatar News Agency by an official source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The source further added that these acts of aggression and practices were an attempt by Israel to exploit the current developments in the international arena in order to create new situations in the region that would endanger regional security and stability, thus destroying the only glimmer of hope for achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

The source also disclosed that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken today with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the Security Council accredited to the State of Qatar and had conveyed to them the request by the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that the Security Council hold as a matter of urgency a meeting to consider the development of the situation and assume its responsibilities in order to halt these attacks and practices on the part of Israel, provide international protection to the Palestinian people and create favourable conditions for the resumption of the peace process in the Middle East on its original basis in accordance with the resolutions founded on international legitimacy and the principle of "land for peace".

The source stressed in conclusion the position of the State of Qatar and the States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in support of the Palestinian people in its just struggle to regain its legitimate rights, in accordance with the resolutions based on international legitimacy, the foremost of which is the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on its national soil with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

21 October 2001